



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershedcommittee.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

September 2, 2021

Good evening,

Following is a summary of my activities since the August meeting.

Outreach/Education: I posted and cross-posted a few relevant posts on our Facebook page, including publicity for the Niantic River 4-Town project. Deb Dunn notified me earlier this week that Earthfest 2021, scheduled for Sept. 25th in East Lyme, has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

Monitoring: I don't have any updates regarding Niantic River outfall sampling. We still need to decide which lab to use. I've received water quality data from Waterford's MS4 consultant, but have not had time to review it.

NRWPP Update Watershed Summit: Whether or not to hold the summit this fall is still in question due to the Covid variant. I will leave it to the Board's discretion whether we should continue to hold off until conditions are more favorable.

Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM Outreach Campaign: The CBSM project team conducted canvassing in East Lyme on Saturday, July 24th and 31st. We had very successful outings and are 15 conversations short of our "100 conversations" goal. I would like to visit the Oswegatchie Hills Road/North Edgewood Drive neighborhood to get those final conversations and wrap up the canvassing phase of this project. The next and final phase will be to revisit select areas in the fall to follow-up on how successful folks were on adopting the recommended behaviors and if they shared the information with their neighbors. I anticipate closing this project out in late fall (the end date is 12/31/21).

Grants: The 2021 Dominion Foundation Environmental Stewardship grant proposal is due September 30th. Let me know if you have any specific project ideas.

Water Quality Improvement Projects: 4-Town Bioretention project – I am coordinating with staff from East Lyme and Waterford to identify for locations for some of the project BMPs. I have started circulating publicity for the rain garden phase of the project (7 each on East Lyme and Waterford). If anyone has any ideas for locations or ideas for publicity (or can assist with publicity), please let me know. We will be holding a free rain barrel distribution later this month or in October. Again, I will be looking for assistance with publicizing the give-away.

Staff hours: In August, I worked approximately 15.75 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 0.5 hours was for core NRW activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities, including 0.25 hours applied to the 2020 Dominion funding specifically for outfall sampling), 0.25 hours to the Watershed Plan Update Summit (CFECT grant), and about 14.75 hours were applied to the LISFF CBSM campaign.

Niantic River Watershed...

...a Treasure Worth Protecting

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy Rondeau", is placed over a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator